

Application Serial No. 10/674,162
Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3338

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because the specification used the reference numeral '50' to refer to both an air suction pipe and a path forming member. In response, the Applicant has amended the specification to delete all instances of the term "path forming member" and to replace it with "air suction pipe." Thus, the drawings and specification are consistent in that reference numeral 50 identifies only an "air suction pipe." As stated in the specification, however, the air suction pipe 50 can also be embodied as a flexible hose.

The Examiner objected to the title and the specification because they contained the term "upright type." Regarding the specification, the Examiner said that "upright type" should be replaced with "upright." The Examiner also said that a new title was required because the title was not descriptive.

In response, the Applicant has amended the specification to change every occurrence of "upright type" to "upright." A new title, which is set forth above, is believed to be descriptive of the invention.

Claims 1, 9 and 14 were objected to because they too included the term "upright type." In response, these claims have been amended to delete the word "type."

Claims 5 and 10 were objected to because in their preambles, the word "vacuum" should be inserted before the word "cleaner" in order to make the preambles of claims 5 and 10 correspond to the preambles of other claims. In response, the preambles of claims 5 and 10 have been amended to add the word "vacuum" before the word "cleaner."

Claims 2-7 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 because of

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various ambiguities set forth on page 4 of the Office Action. Each of claims 2, 5, 7, 12 and 13 have been amended as set forth above to make them more clear. The rejection of claims 2-7 and 12-13 is believed overcome by the amendments to these claims.

Claims 1-3 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent application publication number 2004/0181898 by Kondo

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and under §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 6,532,620 to Oh.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 5,230,722 to Yonkers.

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo and Oh.

Claims 5, 7 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of Bilek.

Claim 14 was allowed.

Regarding claim 14, paraphrased, the Examiner said that none of the prior art references disclosed or suggested that the dust collected apparatus of claim 14 could be detached from the vacuum cleaner and have the flexible hose re-attached by which the hose would be directly connected to the main body so that dust and filth in the air drawn through the suction brush would be separated in the dust collecting chamber.

In view of the Examiner's reasons for allowing claim 14, each of the independent claims (1 and 9) have been amended to claim that when the cyclone dust collecting apparatus is attached to the main body, air from the suction brush passes through both the cyclone dust collecting apparatus and the dust filter but when the cyclone dust

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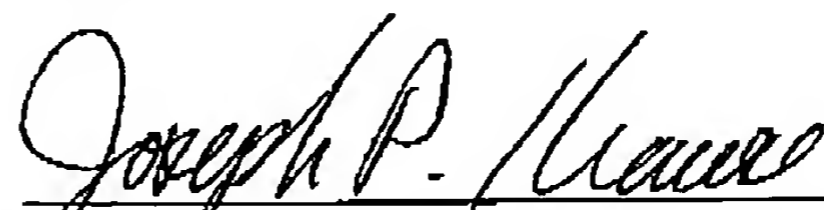
collecting apparatus is detached from the main body and the flexible hose is re-attached to the main body, dust and filth entrained in the air drawn in through the suction brush is carried through the flexible hose into just the dust filter.

A study of the prior art references cited by the Examiner revealed that none of the prior art cited by the Examiner shows or suggests such a dual-mode operation of a vacuum cleaner, i.e., that one or two filters can be selectively used by the detachment of one filter from the vacuum cleaner and the re-attachment of a hose to the vacuum cleaner. Thus, each one of the independent claims 1, 9 and 14 avoid the prior art cited by the Examiner and is in condition for allowance.

Since each of the independent claims is now in condition for allowance, each of the dependent claims is in now in condition for allowance as well. Therefore, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

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